Abdullah Alotibi

W220

June 13, 2011

1st Draft Essay

Making Relationships

Once upon time, there was a guy who went to study in the United States that is far away

from his home country. He felt homesick while being there, and was trying to make friendships

with American guys or girls. The language was an obstacle in front of him always, one day he

decided to come over this problem whatever happens. He went to school that day attending

English classes, and in the break, sitting outside and smoking, a girl came to him, asked for a

cigarette, he found it a chance to talk with this girl and make a friendship with her. While they

talking to each other, he asked her that he wants to hang out together but doesn’t know how

Americans do that, she answered him directly; go learn and come again “with a cold smile”. This

experience changed him a lot to think seriously about being alone with the homesick or having

friends that can help him to eliminate the obstacles from his road. That guy was me during first

months in the United States, and now, I feel more comfortable and have confidence talking about

relationships and how to build a friendship with Americans.

\*\*\*

Making friends is not something easy for the international students who came from

overseas countries. They face problems one after the other, beginning with the language and the

accents to end with the whole lifestyle. Having these obstacles while being in the United States

make them in isolation and want to be with people who are from their country or part of the

world. In addition, some American students are from conservative societies that they have

attitudes toward people who are from certain countries or who believe in some religion. In this

situation, some students might face people who are not kind or don’t want to deal with them at

all because of their ethnic background or so.

Many differences are between the student’s culture and the American culture that can be

a problem to the student to adjust with the new culture easily, to help making friends. Listening

to their music, watching TV shows are hard to the student at first because of the language and the

music tones, but at the same time, it helps to know more about American culture and the way of

thinking they use. International students have the fears that Americans aren’t really friendly to

talk with them in the street or in the bus but they are. Feeling silly when she/he speaks English

with native speakers is one of the difficulties that can be make her/him don’t want just start a

conversation with Americans, especially when the student has poor language skills.

Making friends needs some special skills that students can enjoy their times in the new

community. Joining the sport teams and learning how to play American football is a good chance

to meet new people to talk with them and building friendships. Also, volunteering to do jobs has

some benefits that international student can be acceptable with the people who are working with.

To start short conversation with people in gym or sport clubs will help to have an experience

with different kinds of people dealing with them and get new friends. However, the international

student must be a trustworthy that Americans can deal with her/him because if they don’t trust

her/him, the student never think of a friendship with someone who is not trusty. As well, being a

good friend will help to keep the friendship longer and longer.